



**Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Fort Mason, San Francisco, CA 94123**

ADVANCED NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING *PET MANAGEMENT IN GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA*

Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) is one of over 385 units in the National Park System. GGNRA is one of the largest urban national parks in the world, encompassing 75,500 acres of land and water. Approximately 28 miles of coastline lie within its boundaries. The park's many locations include Alcatraz, Marin Headlands, Fort Funston, Fort Mason, as well as Muir Woods National Monument, Phleger Estate, Fort Point National Historic Site, the Presidio of San Francisco, Sweeney Ridge, and Milagra Ridge. Approximately 36 rare or special status plant species and 75 rare and special status wildlife species are currently identified within GGNRA.

The National Park Service must manage park resources and values in such a manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.

WHAT IS AN ADVANCED NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING (ANPR)?

- An ANPR is a Notice intended to solicit comments and information from all segments of the public interested in a particular issue prior to an agency determining whether a rule (regulation) will be proposed.
- Through this ANPR, titled ***Pet Management in Golden Gate National Recreation Area***, the National Park Service (NPS) is seeking public comment on a range of potential management options for addressing appropriate pet management within Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA).
- This is an initial step in a proceeding that could result in initiation of the rulemaking process to develop a new pet management regulation for GGNRA.

WHY IS THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE INITIATING THIS ANPR?

- In 1979, the GGNRA Citizen's Advisory Commission developed and recommended a pet policy to GGNRA that established guidance for location and criteria for "voice control" of pets within certain areas of the park. The Commission's "voice control" policy did not and could not override NPS system-wide prohibition of pets off leash; nevertheless, in error, this unofficial "voice control" policy was in place within GGNRA for more than 20 years.
- Several recent events have underscored the need for undertaking a public process concerning pet management in GGNRA, including increased visitation to GGNRA, litigation concerning the Fort Funston area of the park, public concern about visitor and pet safety, park resource management issues involving wildlife and vegetation protection, and the review of dog-walking issues by the Golden Gate National Recreation Area Advisory Commission
- The NPS service-wide pet regulation requiring pets to be leashed applies to this park as well as all others. GGNRA has no authority to avoid or ignore the regulation. Education efforts are underway with the public to clarify this issue.

- Several other jurisdictions in the Bay Area are moving toward more stringent pet regulations and enforcement, due to the volume of use and the negative impacts associated with off-leash use.
- Some San Francisco dog organizations support the recreational benefits – for both dogs and humans – of off-leash dog walking.

WHAT ARE THE STEPS IN THE ANPR PROCESS?

- The ANPR notice was published in the Federal Register on January 11, 2002. The notice gives the background of the issue and invites public comment.
- Public comment is received for 91 days (*extended from the 60 days originally announced*) from the date of publication in the Federal Register. The National Park Service invites the public to comment on this Notice in writing, or orally at a location and time to be announced.
- **Comments must be received by April 12, 2002** (*extended from March 12, 2002*).
- At the end of the comment period, the NPS analyzes the comments.
- A recommendation is made by GGNRA to the Director of the NPS as to whether or not to initiate the rulemaking process to develop an alternative pet management regulation for GGNRA.
- The existing regulation will continue to be enforced unless it is replaced by a new regulation.

WHAT COMES AFTER ANPR?

- If, through the ANPR process, the National Park Service determines that the existing pet regulation should be altered for GGNRA, then such a proposed regulation would be drafted in accordance with applicable laws, including the Administrative Procedures Act (APA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

WHERE CAN YOU READ THE ANPR AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION?

Information packets can be viewed at the following locations, or you can go to our web site at www.nps.gov/goga/pets/anpr

National Park Service Visitor Centers:

GGNRA

Alcatraz National Historic Site - (415) 705-1042
 Cliff House Visitor Center – (415) 556-8642
 Crissy Field Center – (415) 561-7690
 Fort Point Historic Site - (415) 556-1693
 Marin Headlands Visitor Center - (415) 331-1540
 Muir Woods National Monument - (415) 388-2596
 NPS Pacific West Information Center in Building 201, Fort Mason - (415) 561-4700
 Pacifica Visitor Center –(650) 355-4122
 Presidio Main Post Visitor Center - (415) 561-4323
 Warming Hut – (415) 561-3040

Point Reyes National Seashore

Bear Valley Visitor Center - (415) 464-5100

Public Libraries (on reserve):San Francisco Libraries

Civic Center (Main) Branch - (415) 557-4400

Marina Branch - (415) 292-2150

Merced Branch - (415) 337-4780

Richmond Branch - (415) 666-7165

Sunset Branch - (415) 753-7130

Marin County Public Libraries

Marin County Free Library, Bolinas Branch - (415) 868-1171

Marin County Free Library, Civic Center Branch - (415) 499-6051

Marin County Free Library, Fairfax Branch - (415) 453-8151

Marin County Free Library, Marin City Branch - (415) 332-6157

Marin County Free Library, Point Reyes Station Branch - (415) 663-8375

Marin County Free Library, San Geronimo Valley Branch - (415) 488-0430

Marin County Free Library, Stinson Beach Branch (415) 868-0252

Sausalito Public Library - (415) 289-4121

Mill Valley Public Library - (415) 389-4292

San Mateo County Public Libraries

John D. Daly Branch, Daly City Public Library - (650) 991-8073

Westlake Branch, Daly City Public Library - (650) 991-8071

Half Moon Bay Branch, San Mateo County Library - (650) 726-2316

Pacifica Main Library - (650) 355-5196

San Mateo Public Library - (650) 522-7800

East Bay Public Libraries

Berkeley Public Library, Main Branch - (510) 644-6648

Oakland Public Library, Main Branch - (510) 238-3138

PUBLIC COMMENT:**Comments accepted Jan. 11, 2002 through April 12, 2002**

Public comment can be received in any of the following formats. Materials received after stated deadline cannot be included for consideration. Comments must include name and address to be considered. If individuals submitting comments request that their name and/or address be withheld from public disclosure, it will be honored to the extent allowable by law. Such requests must be stated prominently at the beginning of the comments. For more information call (415) 561-4728.

In Person:

Oral comment will be accepted on April 6, 2002, from 9:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. (3 minutes per speaker) at Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Upper Ft. Mason, Bldg. 201, San Francisco. For information, please call (415) 561-4728.

By Mail:

Superintendent

Golden Gate National Recreation Area

Attention: ANPR

Fort Mason, Building 201

San Francisco, CA 94123

By Fax: (415)-561-4355**By Email:** goga_pets_anpr@nps.gov



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